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Docket No.: 549222000101
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
John O. RYAN

Application No.: 08/977,846

Group Art Unit: 3629

Filed: November 25, 1997

Examiner: T. Dixon

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
      INFORMATION DISSEMINATION WITH
      USER MENU INTERFACE (AS AMENDED)

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GROUP 360(

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is an Appeal from the rejection of claims 1 and 33-59 in the above-referenced

application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.192, this Brief, along with the Appendix, is filed in

triplicate and is accompanied by the required fee under § 1.17(f). This brief is in furtherance of the

Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on May 14, 2003. Note the time for filing this brief however

runs from <u>June 5, 2003</u>. See paper No. 42 in this case.

The fees required under § 1.17(f) and any required petition for extension of time for filing

this brief and fees therefor, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL

BRIEF.

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This brief is transmitted in triplicate.

This brief contains items under the following headings per 37 C.F.R. § 1.192:

I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is:

COMMAND AUDIO CORPORATION.

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected

by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

A.   Total Number of Claims in Application

There are 28 claims pending in application.

B.   Current Status of Claims

1.   Claims canceled: none

2.   Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: 2-32

3.   Claims pending: 1 and 33-59

4.   Claims allowed: none

5.   Claims rejected: 1, 33-42, 48-51, 58-59

6.   Claims objected to: 43-47 and 52-57.

C.   Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are Claims 1 and 33-59.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments have been entered.

IV.   SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for transmitting information. The overall system includes in one embodiment a radio station or television station 50 as shown in Fig. 2 which transmits information (such as a radio program) using data generating block 51 also shown in Fig. 2 over the television or radio waves, for instance, to a receiver 10 as shown in Fig. 1. Programs are transmitted, typically in the form of audio, to the especially adapted receiver 10 which converts selected transmitted audio programs to a form the user can listen to and which stores the audio information in memory in the receiver. See specification, page 1, lines 9-12.

Thus (see specification Summary, page 2, beginning line 22) this permits the user to listen to the specific content of the information (programs) when and where he or she wants to. In the receiver in one embodiment, a tuner extracts digitized alphanumeric data or compressed audio data from a television station's video signal, the separate audio program (SAP) from a television station audio signal, or radio sidebands. Further, a user interface which is, e.g., a manual or voice control driving a collection of menus, allows the user of the receiver to access the transmitted information by indicating his selections from the menus. The receiver then extracts the stored programs from a database in the memory, in decrypted form. A voice activation device in one embodiment including a decompression system and a digital to audio converter or other speech producing device converts the encrypted digitized audio programs to an audio signal for provision to the user.

The receiver 10 shown in detail in Fig. 1 includes (see specification, Detailed Description, page 4, beginning line 16) an antenna 11 connected to the tuner 12. The tuner 12 is, for instance, a radio or television type tuner. The extracted audio data (programs) is provided on line 14, typically in encrypted form, to access circuitry 16. This access circuitry performs the decryption. The

decrypted audio data is then provided on line 26 to be stored in memory 28 which stores the data (programs) from the received broadcast signal in the database. In one embodiment each audio program is tagged with a designation to allow retrieval of the stored audio programs from the database using the menus. See specification, page 6, lines 9-14. In the receiver, the user interface 40 inputs user commands from the user on line 42 to microcontroller 20 to determine which items of data (programs) from the memory 28 are to be listened to by the user. See specification, page 6, lines 15-17.

The transmitted programs are categorized, stored and accessed at the receiver in a database in memory 28 under control of the microcontroller 20 in one embodiment. See specification, page 6, lines 18-20. User interface 40, driving a collection of user menus, allows the user to access the programs by indicating his program selections from the menus. See specification, page 6, lines 20-23. There is also a speech producing subsystem in the receiver 10 with the decompression block 39 and voice synthesizer 45 which ultimately provide audio output by loudspeaker 38. This accommodates the dual transmission of alphanumeric program data as well as audio program data. See specification, page 6, lines 1-8.

Thus advantageously audio programs are transmitted via a broadcast signal, received at the receiver by the tuner, and relevant portions of the signal extracted, processed and stored in a memory in a database in the receiver. The programs are then accessible via the user interface by a collection of menus provided to the user allow the user to choose programs from the database which can then be listened to by the user at his leisure. In one embodiment, the database is a hierarchical database and the collection of menus allows access to that hierarchical database. In that embodiment the menus have a hierarchy for accessing the database. See specification, page 6, lines 18-23. For instance, program categories in the menus might be news, sports, entertainment. Under each category there may be a selection of subcategories also subject to user selection, with a choice of programs under each subcategory. See specification, page 6, lines 24 and following.

V.   ISSUES

1. Claims 1, 33-36, 39-40, 48-51, and 58-59 are rejected under §102 as anticipated by Nagashima.

2. Claims 37-38 and 41-42 are rejected under §103 over Nagashima in view of Rovira.

3. Claims 43-47 and 52-57 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. (This is not an issue for this appeal.)

It is requested that all the rejections be reversed. Both independent Claims 1 and 58 and additionally at least dependent Claims 36-40, and 51 are each patentably distinguishable over the references.

VI.   GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The claims do not stand or fall together. Some claims do stand together in that dependent Claims 33-57 stand with Claim 1 and dependent Claim 59 stands with Claim 58.

For purposes of this appeal brief only, and without conceding the teachings of any reference, the claims have been grouped in terms of not falling together as indicated below:

Group	Claim(s)
I.	1 (independent)
II.	36
III.	37
IV.	38
V.	39
VI.	40
VII.	51
VIII.	58 (independent)

In Section VIII below, Applicant states reasons supporting the separate patentability of each claim group I to VIII.

VII.   ARGUMENTS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 33-36, 39-40, 48-51, and 58-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima [GB 2 259 204 A; hereinafter 'Nagashima']. See October 29, 2002 Office Action, ¶ 5. Applicant traverses the rejection and asks that it be reversed as pertains to Claim 1 at least because Nagashima does not disclose or suggest "selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections" made from "a set of menus describing the database" as recited in method Claim 1.

Nagashima (see Abstract; p. 3, third paragraph; p. 4, second and third paragraphs; p. 8, fifth paragraph, etc.) discloses an FM broadcast receiver that uses the well known (at least in Europe) RDS (Radio Data System). "The RDS is an FM character multiplexed broadcasting system developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) ... to transmit various RDS data." See id., p. 3, last paragraph. The RDS data is limited to data descriptive of the programs and is in the form of codes as shown in Nagashima Fig. 8. Neither RDS nor Nagashima have any provision in the receiver for storing the actual programs or storing data in the receiver, except for these RDS codes.

In one instance, Nagashima discloses a "controller 12" that "operates in accordance with a control program stored in ROM 13." See Nagashima, p. 9, last paragraph. "The controller 12 stores RDS data successively transmitted thereto ... once into a RAM 14." (emphasis added). See id. Such RDS data includes a "PTY (broadcasting program contents identification) code .... The PTY code is used to inform which one of, for example, classic music, light music, news, sports and so forth is being broadcast at present." (emphasis added.) See id., p. 4, second paragraph. Controller 12 "further receives various operation instructions entered by way of an operation panel 15." See id., p. 10, first paragraph. There is a "speech synthesizing circuit 16" that outputs "a predetermined message representative of the name of [a] broadcast station and the contents of [a] program." (emphasis added) See id., p. 12, last paragraph. "As a result, the user can know ... the name of the broadcasting station being received by the FM receiver ... and the contents of the program." See id., p. 13, fourth paragraph. In other words, Nagashima discloses the RDS information being output to the user that describes the type of program content, but Nagashima does not store and later output the actual received content (program).

In another instance, Nagashima discloses a "display unit" and that "names of FM stations preset in preset channels ... and contents of programs of the stations at present are automatically displayed on the display unit so that the contents of the programs of the preset stations at present may be notified to the user." See id., pp. 20-21 carry over paragraph. "[T]he FM tuner 1 successively searches for preset stations set in advance in the tuner 1 and stores PTY [RDS program type] codes of the preset stations in RAM 14." See id., p. 21, second paragraph. Controller 12 "reads out from the RAM 1 [sic] PTY codes which provide information of contents of programs of the preset stations at present, and displays them on the screen of the display unit 17." See id., p. 22, first paragraph; see also id., Fig. 7. "If the user depresses, looking at the display of the contents of

the programs ..., a preset button for an FM station to which the user wants to listen, the controller 12 detects this, sets the receiving frequency of the FM tuner 1 to a frequency of the designated preset station and starts reception of the desired preset station." See id., p. 22, third paragraph. Nagashima ends by stating that "the present invention is not limited to the RDS and can be applied to an FM multiple broadcasting wave so far as information for identification of contents of a broadcasting program is carried thereon." (emphasis added) See id., p. 23, third paragraph.

Thus Nagashima discloses the reception and storage only of the received RDS data (codes). The stored RDS data is then used to output "a predetermined message representative of... the contents of [a] program." See id., p. 12, last paragraph. The received and stored RDS code itself is not output to the user, nor is any information output to the user in response to a selection from a set of menus.

Nagashima does not have any need for a set of menus since at any time his receiver (like any conventional radio) can only play the currently broadcast program. Further, Nagashima does not appear even to mention any use of menus.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites "a memory ... for storing data in the received broadcast signal in a database." There is "a user interface for providing a set of menus describing the database, and for accepting selections from the set of menus." There is also a "controller ... for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections," and this controller "provid[es] the selected data in a digital form." A "speech producing subsystem ... convert[s] the selected data from digital form to an analog signal." Accordingly, since Nagashima does not disclose or even suggest any of these features recited in Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Nagashima.

Further, Appellant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that "Nagashima ... discloses: ... a memory ... for storing data in the received broadcast signal in a database," see October 29, 2002 Office Action, ¶ 5, because Nagashima does not disclose a logical storage arrangement (distinct from a physical location) of the received "RDS data" or the "predetermined message" in a manner that would even suggest a "database" as recited in Claim 1. Hence there is no "database" in Nagashima.

Nagashima merely discloses "The controller 12 stores RDS data successively transmitted thereto in the unit of a group from the RDS signal demodulating circuit 11 once into a RAM 14 ..." See Nagashima, p. 9, last paragraph. Hence Nagashima does not disclose a "database," for which is provided "a set of menus describing the database" or from which is selected "data from the database in response to ... accepted selections," all as recited in Claim 1.

In the October 29, 2002 Office Action at ¶ 4 the Examiner further discussing Nagashima said (p.2) "Nagashima discloses a database, presets for an AM and an FM tuner, see figure 1 (1,2) and further FM1 and FM2 with its hierarchical database as seen in figure 7; selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections, see page 6, lines 16-24; and store and output received content, see page 9, lines 22-24."

As stated above, it is not seen where these claimed features are shown in Nagashima. There does not appear to be in Nagashima a database and especially no database of the RDS information. There is generally no need for same in Nagashima since the RDS data is a set of codes, as shown in Nagashima Fig. 8. Moreover, the Examiner's reference to the "presets" is not understood as being relevant; virtually all radios (except for the most inexpensive) and all TV sets are provided with a station preset tuning capability. Also, it is not seen why the Examiner finds any kind of hierarchical database in Fig. 7 of Nagashima. Nagashima p. 8, second paragraph, identifies Fig. 7: "Fig. 7 is an illustration showing a display screen of a display of the audio system shown in Fig. 1 when it operates in accordance with the flow of operation shown in Fig. 6;". Since Nagashima Fig. 7 is a display, it is not seen why it suggests that there is an associated hierarchical database or any database at all. Provision of the Nagashima Fig. 7 display does not require a database and the Examiner does not explain why it would. It is also not seen why at p. 6, lines 16-24 of Nagashima the Examiner finds disclosure of selecting data from a database; this part of Nagashima merely appears to disclose the "notification requirement," or what is shown on the display in Nagashima. See Nagashima p. 6, line 17.

Also there is no attempt by Nagashima to store and output received content, contrary to what the Examiner says referring to Nagashima p. 9, lines 22-24. The Nagashima device as disclosed there "stores RDS data successively transmitted thereto". However, again this stored RDS data is

not what is provided to the user but instead it is the received RDS codes which are used to generate the output announcements, since the stored data is the RDS codes as described above.

Hence the Examiner attributes to Nagashima features that extend well beyond what Nagashima actually discloses, and so Claim 1 is not anticipated thereby.

Indepdendent method Claim 58 is directed to a method carried out by the above described system in terms of operation of the receiver and the provision of the transmitted information (e.g., programs) to the user of the receiver. Claim 58 also is not anticipated by Nagashima, at least because Claim 58 recites "storing the received information in a database; providing a set of menus describing the database; accepting selections from the set of menus; [and] selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selection." (emphasis added.) None of these acts are disclosed or suggested in Nagashima. Accordingly, Claim 58 is patentable over Nagashima.

The Examiner provided no detailed discussion of his reasons for rejecting Claim 58 except for that in ¶ 5 of the October 29, 2002 Action.

However, it is not seen where in Nagashima there is disclosed or even suggested first, as recited in Claim 58, "storing received information in the database." The relative simplicity of the RDS code data transmitted in Nagashima would suggest no need for a database since the RDS data is limited to a set of codes.

Next, Claim 58 calls for "providing a set of menus describing the database." Even if one were to concede arguendo that the stored information in Nagashima, that is the RDS codes, might be a database, there is no reason or suggestion to use a "set of menus" to describe the RDS codes. In Nagashima the listener can only listen to the program being currently broadcast on any one channel. The listener's only real choice is what channel to listen to. He cannot choose at any one time what program to listen to for a given channel. Hence a set of menus would be of no use to the listener.

Further, clearly in Nagashima there is no suggestion of "selecting data from the database ... " as called for in Claim 58. Instead, in Nagashima whatever RDS data is stored is used to show the user what kinds of programs are available. The listener is not selecting data from a database but merely chooses which channel to listen to while viewing the screen display of Nagashima Fig. 7. Hence Claim 58 is not anticipated by Nagashima.

With reference to dependent Claim 36 (rejected under §102, Nagashima), neither Nagashima (nor Rovira, the other cited reference, see below) discloses or suggests that "the <u>received data</u> ['data in the received broadcast signal' that is stored 'in a database' as recited in Claim 1] <u>is audio data</u> that has been converted from analog form to digital form" (emphasis added) as in Claim 36.

The Examiner made further comments in his rejection of Claim 36 at ¶ 4 (p. 3) of the October 29, 2002 Action and said "... it is seen that Nagashima discloses, page 9, lines 22-24, demodulating the signal into a RAM. Demodulating, by its definition is recovering information from a previously modulated carrier (audio form) into a digital form usable by the controller and RAM." It is respectively submitted that the Claim 36 "audio data" in the context of Claim 36 is not shown in Nagashima, or even suggested thereby. Modulating does not require, of course, that the signal be in audio form. Since the RDS data is transmitted in the form of codes, it is not seen why it would ever be in audio form. The RDS data is transmitted as part of a radio transmission, as is the case generally with AM and FM radio transmissions and is demodulated at the receiver. However, the RDS code data is not "audio data". Hence the statement by Examiner is not technically correct, and so Nagashima does not anticipate Claim 36.

With reference to Claim 39 (rejected under §102, Nagashima), neither Nagashima (nor Rovira, see below) discloses or even suggests that "the received data is <u>alphanumeric data that has been converted from analog form to digital form</u>" (emphasis added) as Claim 39 recites. Neither reference even suggests that the transmitted data (the RDS code data in Nagashima) was ever in analog form per Claim 39. Hence Claim 39 is not anticipated by Nagashima.

With reference to Claim 40 (rejected under §102, Nagashima), neither Nagashima (nor Rovira, see below) discloses or suggests that "the alphanumeric data [i.e., '<u>received</u> data' that has been 'converted <u>from analog form to digital form</u>' as recited in Claim 39] is converted to voice data by a speech synthesizer" as in Claim 40. Again, neither reference even suggests that the data (the RDS code data in Nagashima) was earlier in analog form.

Further, in the October 29, 2002 Action, the Examiner made further comments in rejecting Claim 40 at ¶ 4. The Examiner again refers to Nagashima, page 9, lines 22-24. For the reasons discussed above, Nagashima does not disclose the "converted" feature in Claim 40. The Examiner

does not state why he believes that the demodulating shown in Nagashima meets, as recited in Claim 40, "converted from analog form to digital form." The demodulating in Nagashima appears to have its ordinary meaning, that is extracting information (of any kind) from an AM or an FM radio signal. Hence Nagashima does not anticipate Claim 40.

With reference to dependent Claim 51 (rejected under §102, Nagashima), Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement in the October 29, 2002 Action at ¶ 4, p. 4 that Nagashima discloses a hierarchy for a database. Applicant believes the Examiner incorrectly cites Nagashima's Figs. 7-8, which disclose only "a table of RDS data," see Nagashima, p. 8, and Nagashima Fig. 9, which discloses only "a diagrammatic view illustrating a transmission format of RDS data," See id. No "hierarchy" as recited in Claim 51 is disclosed or even suggested in Nagashima (nor in Rovira, see below).

Further with reference to the Examiner's comments in rejecting Claim 51 at ¶ 4 of the October 29, 2002 Action, the Examiner essentially repeated his statements about Claim 1 with regard to the hierarchy for a database. Again it is not seen why this is shown in Nagashima. Hence Nagashima does not anticipate Claim 51.

Moreover, it is noted that the Examiner made no objection or rejection of Claim 51 as pertains to its form or due to its dependence on Claim 1. Claim 51 calls for "means for designating by a broadcaster ..." This "means" in Claim 51 is not recited as being part of the (base) Claim 1 receiver. Since the Examiner made no rejection or objection to Claim 51 on this basis, it is submitted there is no issue here for this appeal.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The Examiner rejected Claims 37-38 and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being "unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Rovira [WIPO International Publication No. WO 92/10040; hereinafter 'Rovira']." See October 29, 2002 Office Action, ¶ 6.

Rovira, somewhat similar to Nagashima, discloses (see Abstract) "communicating program data signals" such as "title, trade, artist, record label, year, etc." Again, these data signals provide

information about the program itself, and are not the actual program content, and so are similar to the Nagashima RDS data.

Rovira states "It is an object of the present invention <u>to transmit and provide program information</u> for digital audio transmitted to subscribers, where the program information is combined with the digital audio." (emphasis added, <u>see</u> Rovira, p. 3, second paragraph.) Hence Rovira is somewhat similar to Nagashima, with transmission and playing in real time at the receiver of the transmitted digital audio (program) accompanied by the program descriptive information.

The limits of Nagashima's disclosure are discussed above. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's statement that "Nagashima ... does not disclose the received audio has been compressed"; and "... does not disclose the received audio data has been encrypted." See Office Action of October 29, 2002, ¶ 6. Further, Applicant agrees with the Examiner that "Nagashima ... does not disclose a decryptor for decrypting the data"; and "... does not disclose a decompression algorithm for decompressing the data." <u>See id.</u>, ¶ 6.

Rovira discloses a method of "transmitting digital signals accompanied by program content data so that listeners/viewers may see a display of the program content data as they are listening/viewing the performance, without interrupting the performance." <u>See</u> Rovira, p. 1. Rovira discloses a "digital music tuner 100" that includes a "memory 144". <u>See id.</u>, Figs. 5, 6; pp. 12, 14. Memory 144 does not even store "program data", but only "bits of data to support the demultiplexing, decrypting and decoding functions occurring in circuits 143, 145 and 147 respectively". <u>See id.</u>, p. 14.

Rovira further discloses regarding the memory (<u>see</u> Rovira Fig. 5) "The program data signal from ASIC 140 is sent to microprocessor 150 where it is stored in internal memory of the microprocessor, ..." (<u>See id</u>, p. 13, third paragraph.) However, even here in Rovira only the program data - the descriptive program information <u>about</u> the program - is referred to in conjunction with being stored in memory.

Thus even the combination of Nagashima and Rovira does not disclose or suggest, for example, "selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections" from "a set of

menus describing the database" as recited in independent Claim 1. Since even the combination of these two references does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent Claim 1, combining Nagashima and Rovira also does not disclose or suggest features recited in dependent Claims 37-38 and 41-42. Further, these references also do not meet features of at least certain of the dependent claims, contrary to what the Examiner argues.

With reference to dependent Claim 37, neither Nagashima nor Rovira discloses or even suggests that "the received audio data is digitized and has been compressed" (emphasis added) as Claim 37 recites. Rovira does refer to "data decompression" at p. 14, first paragraph, by decoder 147, so it is understood that the data has been earlier compressed. However, this data is Rovira's transmitted "program data" not "audio data" as recited in Claim 37.

Further in the October 29, 2002 Action at ¶ 4 (p. 3), the Examiner made further comments in rejecting Claim 37, referring again to Nagashima, page 9, lines 22-24, similar to his comments on Claim 36. For the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 36, these comments are not correct. The Examiner also refers here to Rovira in rejecting Claim 37. However contrary to the Examiner, there is no indication that Rovira performs the acts called for in Claim 37 on the "received audio data," for the reasons discussed above.

With reference to dependent Claim 38, neither Nagashima nor Rovira discloses or even suggests that "the audio data has been encrypted" (emphasis added) as Claim 38 recites. Rovira shows Decrypt block 145 in Fig. 6, so it is understood that data has been earlier encrypted. Again however, this data is the transmitted "program data" not the "received audio data" as in Claim 38.

Further, in the October 29, 2002 Action, the Examiner further commented on Claim 38 at ¶ 4 (p. 3) essentially repeating the arguments he made with reference to Claim 37, which again are not correct.

Hence both Claims 37 and 38 additionally distinguish over even the combination of Nagashima and Rovira.

Relief Requested

It is requested that the rejections of Claims 1, 33-42, 48-51, and 58-59 be reversed by the Board.

IX.   CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

A copy of the claims involved in the present appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Dated: November 12, 2003   Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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APPENDIX A

Claims Involved in the Appeal of Application Serial No. 08/977,846

Claim 1 (original): A receiver adapted to receive data contained in a transmitted broadcast signal comprising: a tuner for receiving a broadcast signal;

a memory coupled to the tuner for storing data in the received broadcast signal in a database;

a user interface for providing a set of menus describing the database, and for accepting selections from the set of menus;

a controller coupled to the memory and the user interface for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections and providing the selected data in a digital form; and

a speech producing sub-system coupled to the controller and the memory for converting the selected data from digital form to an analog signal.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory stores the entire database.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a combination of a volatile RAM memory and a non-volatile memory.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The device of Claim 34, wherein the non-volatile memory is selected from the group consisting of an audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or an optical disk.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is audio data that has been converted from analog form to digital form.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The device of Claim 36, wherein the received audio data is digitized and has been compressed.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The device of Claim 36, wherein the received audio data has been encrypted.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is alphanumeric data that has been converted from analog form to digital form.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The device of Claim 39, wherein the alphanumeric data is converted to voice data by a speech synthesizer.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the data is in digital form, has been encrypted and compressed, and further comprising a decryptor for decrypting the data.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The device of Claim 41, wherein said system has a decompression algorithm to decompress data that has been compressed at a transmitter prior to being broadcast.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The device of Claim 41, wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key received by the tuner.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The device of Claim 41, wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key device operatively connected to the decryptor.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is voice activated.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes:

   a manual input device adapted to be mountable on an automobile steering wheel; and

   a link from the manual input device to the controller.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes a control for determining a speed at which the speech producing sub-system outputs the analog signal.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the tuner channel skips to tune to a particular transmitter.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, further comprising:

   an amplifier connected to the speech producing sub-system for amplifying the analog signal; and

means for converting the amplified signal to sound.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for connecting the receiver to an automobile radio set.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for designating by a broadcaster of the broadcast signal a hierarchy for the database.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory stores the data received in a random access memory up to the capacity of the random access memory before transferring said data to one of a disk medium or a tape medium.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The device of Claim 52, wherein the tape medium is a digital audio tape.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is a magnetic disk.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is a magnetic-optical disk.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is an optical disk.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The device of Claim 1, wherein a speed of transmission of the data in the broadcast signal is varied to most efficiently use the available bandwidth.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A method for information dissemination comprising the acts of:

　　　　　receiving the information;

　　　　　storing the received information in a database;

　　　　　providing a set of menus describing the database;

　　　　　accepting selections from the set of menus;

　　　　　selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selection;

　　　　　providing the selected data in digital form; and

　　　　　converting the selected data to an analog signal.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method of Claim 58, wherein the received information is transmitted by a broadcast signal.